

**The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University**  
**Ohio Mining Journal**

**Title:** Colonel Charles Whittlesy

**Creators:** [Orton, Edward, 1829-1899](#)

**Keywords:** Charles Whittlesey, 1808-1886

**Issue Date:** 15-May-1887

**Citation:** Ohio Mining Journal, vol. 5, no. 3 (May 15, 1887), 95-97.

**URI:** <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/32522>

**Appears in Collections:** [Ohio Mining Journal: Volume 5, no. 3 \(May 15, 1887\)](#)

## COLONEL CHARLES WHITTLESY.

In October last, Colonel Charles Whittlesey, an honorary member of this society, died. The respect for his services which led us to place his name on our rolls leads us now with one accord to render a tribute of honor to his memory.

On June 20, 1864, at the historic town of Saybrook, Conn., John Whittlesey whose antecedents are entirely unknown further than that he was of English stock, was married to Ruth Dudley. From that union all of the persons who bear the name of Whittlesey in the United States are descended. They numbered more than a thousand, a dozen years ago, and the collateral branches are doubtless as numerous. The family has proved an excellent representative of that sturdy, thrifty New England stock to which this country owes its characteristic institutions.

The Whittleseys have made an honorable record for themselves in the 250 years that have passed since the family was established here. It is the record of faithful service rather than of brilliant talent. The family has furnished, so far as is known, no great statesman, lawyer, orator, inventor, general, scientist and no millionaire but in every line of service, it has done its duty, faithfully and well. It numbers four members of Congress, many representatives and law makers of the various States, many professors, teachers, ministers and lawyers, but the great bulk has always been found in the ranks of farmers,

If exceptional in any respect, it

is in the loyalty with which it has undertaken the military service of the country. It has had far more than its share in the wars that have been waged for the independence and maintenance of the nation. It seems from all that can be gathered the Whittleseys have taken their places, honorable though not especially conspicuous places, in the National armies, from the puritan sense of duty, with the cool and steadfast and persistent courage that this implies, rather than from any vain glorious ambition, or from the love of excitement and change.

Not a family of fighters according to the common understanding of the term, the country owes to them a larger debt for steady and unflinching support in every emergency in its history than it does to most other of the many households it has nourished.

I regret that I cannot give a full account of the early life of our honored associate. I have mislaid the memoranda with which he furnished me, for a different purpose, a year ago, I think it safe to say that he exhibits the characteristics in an eminent degree of the stock.

He belonged to the 6th generation of the family; he graduated at West Point in 1827; he was made Brevet Second Lieutenant 5th Infantry 1831; he resigned from the army in 1832; he re-entered military life in the war of the rebellion as Ass't. Q. M. General and Chief Military Engineer of Ohio; he was made Colonel of the 20th Ohio Volunteers August, 1861, and was in

command of his regiment at Fort Donnelson, February, 1862; he commanded a brigade at the disastrous battle of Shiloh Church or Pittsburgh Landing, but resigned his command soon after on account of broken health. His service was a patriotic one and altogether in harmony with the traditions of the line from which he sprung.

But it is not on this side that we have known him nor for this line of service that we have specially honored him. It is as the faithful and successful student of geology, geography, archaeology, history that he comes before us and commands our grateful tributes of honor and respect. His training at West Point made him an engineer and gave him the elements of science as taught at that time, but nature made him a geologist; he was irresistibly drawn to the study of the natural phenomena among which he moved, the facts and laws of the air, the water and the land; he early accepted the fruitful doctrine of geology that we can trace and account for the features of the earth that surround us, that each of these has a history that it is possible to decipher. He was of a practical turn and the uses, the economic interests of geology commanded a large place in his mind; he saw that laws controlled the distribution of mineral wealth and it was his great aim to learn and make available these laws.

Of paleontology, he had less knowledge and for it he had less respect, too little probably; he depended on the physical lines of approach for a knowledge of the subjects that he sought. The level in its applications to geology, the clinometer and the compass—these

were the instruments that seemed to him to give the surest results; on their work he felt that he could build safe conclusions.

His geological studies were begun in the iron and complex regions of the Lake Superior district. His services in the United States army were largely confined to those regions; he was associated with the pioneer explorers of that land of wonders; he has told me of the impressions made on him by the displays of mineral wealth when he first traversed the peninsula; it seemed to him that there was so much of it and at the same time it was so inaccessible that neither copper nor iron ore would ever be of any great value and at a later day, he explored the Menominee range, and at that time located valuable ore properties from which he subsequently reaped considerable returns.

He was sent with his command up the Mississippi at an early day. He told me of his encampment for a number of weeks on the site of St. Paul, then a No. 9 fort. A gentleman resided there with whom he was acquainted begged him to join him in an investment in a hundred acres of land that could be had for \$100 an acre just outside the fort. He had the money, but he thought the price exorbitant for land on so distant a frontier; that 100 acres lies in the heart of the modern city of St. Paul; it would be idle to compute its present value.

He was a geologist and man of science when he returned from the army and established himself in Ohio in 1882. For more than 50 years he has had a leading place in all the scientific, archaeological and historical work that has been car-

ried on by the State or by his more immediate section of it. He was largely concerned in the first geological survey of Ohio, both in its original establishment and in the work which it carried on. He was the topographer of the survey and he began at time the compilation and establishment of the extensive set of levels of the surface of the State which we now possess. For the facts of this character, we owe more to Col. Whittlesey than to any other man. He began at a great disadvantage as compared with us. Railroad lines had not been ran, canal lines were just available. Of all that could be had he made the best use and whenever works on this subject to-day will often have occasion to refer to Col. Whittlesey's records that were made at this early time.

E. O.


R. M. HAZELTINE.

E. D. HAZELTINE.

## HAZELTINE BROTHERS, CIVIL & MINING ENGINEERS.

A Copy of all Surveys and Maps are carefully Preserved, and Kept  
on File in Our Office.

Residence and Office at HASELTON, at the crossing of the A. Y. & P. and  
P. & L. E. R. R's, one mile east of the city.

 Post-office address—HASELTON, or YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO.

## FRASER & CHALMERS,

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## MINING, MILLING, CONCENTRATION

AND SMELTING MACHINERY,

For Systematic Treatment of Gold, Silver, Lead and Copper Ores.

HOISTING &amp; PUMPING PLANT, CORLISS ENGINES, FINE WIRE TRAMWAYS

SOLE MANUFACTURERS

## Murphy Champion Mine Ventilator.

VENTILATING FOR MINES AND TUNNELS.

General Office and Works, Chicago, Illinois.

NEW YORK,  
No. 2 Wall Street.

BRANCH OFFICES:

423 Blake Street, DENVER, COL.

BUTTE, MONT.,  
Chambers Building.